



The Foundation Newsletter

December 2020



Rotarians in District 7170-

This holiday season brings much joy, warm wishes, beautiful trees, family gatherings, gifts, smiles and a plethora of appeals from charitable organizations! We are flooded with phone calls, letters, commercials, texts – everyone asking for your financial help! And some of their “asks” even include a gift of cards, labels and or a coin! But give “beware!”

Before you write that check do some research. A charity’s name or television commercial may signal a worthy cause, such as feeding the hungry, supporting veterans, rescuing an animal or helping a child. But ask yourself what percentage of the money you send will go directly to that need - or how much of your donation will go for administrative costs or to pay for that fancy brochure or TV spots. Is the organization a 501c3 or is it possibly a scam?

The best course of action before giving is to check out the charity with one or more of the major charity watchdogs, including Charities Navigator, Charity Watch, Guide Star, and BBB Wise Giving Alliance. Even with the highest rating, some charities designate only 75% of your donation to the program. Look at the overview of the organization’s financial health and budget breakdown. If it’s a local nonprofit or a national organization with programs in your community, you can volunteer your time or go in person to see some of their programming in action. Check out the company’s website as well as independent reviews and evaluations.

One more thing – in times of crisis, many individuals find themselves wondering how they can help. But again “beware.” Take a few minutes before you give to make sure the organization you plan to support is reputable and has a dedicated response effort. Refer once again to Charities Navigator which publishes HOT TOPIC articles with lists of highly-rated charities that have confirmed they’re providing disaster relief as well as countless other tips for better giving!

Best wishes for a HEALTHY holiday season and New Year!!

Give generously and intelligently!!

Yours truly – The District Foundation Committee

Chair PDG Doug Larison, Global Grants Chair PDG Lana Rouff , District Grants Chair Cindy Burger, Polio Chair PDG Dave Bensley, Paul Harris Society Chair Rosalie Higgins and incoming Foundation Chair PDG Zoe Vander Meulen

P.S.– We invite you to type in **The Rotary Foundation** in Charities Navigators’ website!! TRF’s overall rating is 99.40 (out of 100) which gives it the highest 4-star rating. 89.8% of its donations are spent on programs and services with only 3.8% towards administrative costs and 6.3% on fundraising expenses! So, we hope you will consider including the Foundation in your giving this season.